

4. On *Crocodylus johnstoni*, Krefft.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

[Received February 17, 1874.]

(Plate XXVII.)

Mr. Krefft has kindly sent to the Museum a cast in plaster of Paris of the head and dorsal shield of a Crocodile discovered by Mr. Johnston, of Cardwell, Rockingham Bay, Queensland. It is, as I decided P. Z. S. 1873, p. 334, from the examination of a photograph, a Crocodile, but differing from all other Crocodiles in the form of its head and teeth.

This Crocodile has had various names given to it. When Mr. Krefft sent me a photograph of the skull in 1871, I proposed to call it *Tomistoma krefftii*; but that name was never published, and the examination of the skull has shown that this Crocodile is not a *Tomistoma*.

Mr. Krefft, in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1873, p. 335, describes it under the name of *Crocodylus johnsoni*, and says it was discovered by Mr. Johnson; but in a letter to me of the 15th of May, 1873, he says, "I call it *Crocodylus johnstoni*," not "*johnsoni*;" and I suppose the name should be that of Mr. Johnston of Cardwell, and not Johnson, as mentioned in Mr. Krefft's paper in the 'Proceedings.'

This species agrees with the Crocodiles of the Old World in the possession of four nuchal shields in a cross line at the back of the head, and in having a rhombic cervical disk of six keeled shields, the lateral ones being smaller and opposite the suture between the front and hinder pair. The dorsal disk is formed of six longitudinal series of nearly equal keeled scales, with one or two more or less distinct rows of smaller shields on each side, the inner one of which does not reach the hinder thighs, and the outer one is much shorter and smaller. The keels of the two outer series of dorsal shields unite together, and form one keel just before the front of the thighs, which is extended down the side of the tail, as in the African Crocodiles. The toes are webbed, and the hinder sides of the legs and feet have a fringe of elongated triangular scales.

The African and Australian Crocodiles differ from the *Molinia* of Central America in the head being only slightly or not enlarged in front of the lower canines.

The form of the head of the Australian Crocodile is so different from the form of the head of the African and Madagascar species that I am inclined to make them into two sections or subgenera.

1. CROCODILUS.

The head depressed, rather broad, tapering in front; the forehead and upper part of the face flat, shelving on the sides.

1. CROCODILUS VULGARIS, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rept. part ii. p. 15.

Continental Africa, North, West, East, South.

B.M.

2. *CROCODILUS MADAGASCARIENSIS*, Gray, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 145, pl. xxiii.

Madagascar.

B.M.

2. PHILAS.

Head elongate, slender, conical. Forehead flat before and between the eyes, with a slight convex narrow ridge in front to the middle of the beak; face rounded on the sides from the central line; nose subcylindrical.

PHILAS JOHNSTONI. (Plate XXVII.)

Crocodylus johnstoni, Krefft, MS.

Crocodylus johnsoni, Krefft, P. Z. S. 1873, p. 334.

Tomistoma krefftii, Gray, MS., *vide* Krefft.

Australia, Queensland, Cardwell (*Johnston, Bloxland, Krefft*).

The head nearly twice and a half as long as broad; specimen 7 feet long.

5. Note on a Gigantic Cephalopod from Conception Bay, Newfoundland. By W. SAVILLE KENT, F.L.S., F.Z.S., some time Assistant in the Natural-History Department of the British Museum, and late Curator of the Brighton Aquarium.

[Received February 17, 1874.]

The 'American Sportsman' for December 6, 1873, for which I am indebted to the Editor for a separate copy sent me, contains a well authenticated account of a huge Cephalopod lately encountered in Conception Bay, Newfoundland, one of the longer arms of the same having been secured and deposited in the St. John's Museum.

The full description of the monster as contributed by the Rev. M. Harvey of St. John's, may be thus condensed* :—

Two fishermen, while plying their vocation off Great Belle Island, Conception Bay, October 26, 1873, suddenly discovered, at a short distance from them, a dark shapeless mass floating on the surface of the water. Concluding that it was probably part of the cargo of some wrecked vessel, they approached, anticipating a valuable prize, and one of them struck the object with his boat-hook. Upon receiving the shock the dark heap became suddenly animated, and spreading out discovered an intelligent face, with a pair of large prominent ghastly eyes, which seemed to gleam with intense ferocity, the creature at the same time exposing to view, and opening, its parrot-like beak with an apparently hostile and malignant purpose. The men were petrified with terror, and for a moment so fascinated by the horrible sight as to be powerless to stir. Before they had time to recover their presence of mind, the monster, now but a few

* See also Mr. Harvey's letter to Principal Dawson, reprinted in the 'Annals & Magazine of Natural History' for January 1874.